

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 6, 7 and 22 as follows.

1. (Previously Presented) A system, comprising:

a plurality of base stations communicating with a radio network controller by an asynchronous transfer mode based data connection, at least one of the plurality of base stations comprising a plurality of radio sectors having physically distributed asynchronous transfer mode adaptation layer 2 based termination points, each termination point having an asynchronous transfer mode adaptation layer 2 over asynchronous transfer mode structure for mapping different call ID's into an asynchronous transfer mode adaptation layer 2 cell stream of a single asynchronous transfer mode virtual connection under control of a control unit timer having a determined delay time; and

an asynchronous transfer mode switching unit configured to receive all asynchronous transfer mode adaptation layer 2 cell streams sent parallel to each other from said termination points,

wherein said asynchronous transfer mode switching unit comprises a multiplexer configured to multiplex said received asynchronous transfer mode adaptation layer 2 cell streams into a single asynchronous transfer mode virtual connection to be processed by an asynchronous transfer mode switch, and wherein a control unit timer used in said multiplexer has a larger value than a control unit timer used for said asynchronous transfer mode adaptation layer 2 cell streams.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein channels respectively corresponding to said termination points have different bandwidths.

4. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the multiplexer has a switchable bypass line.

5. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 4, wherein the multiplexer is a plug-in type unit.

6. (Currently Amended) An apparatus, comprising:

a receiver configured to receive all asynchronous transfer mode adaptation layer 2 cell streams of respective asynchronous transfer mode virtual connections sent parallel to each other from physically distributed asynchronous transfer mode adaptation layer 2 based termination points of a plurality of radio sectors of a base station, wherein said base station is a base station out of a plurality of base stations configured to communicate with a radio network controller by an asynchronous transfer mode based data connection, and wherein each asynchronous transfer mode adaptation layer 2 cell stream contains different call IDs

mapped into ~~it~~ the asynchronous transfer mode adaptation layer 2 cell stream, in which said different call IDs are contained, under the control of a control unit timer, and

a multiplexer configured to multiplex said received asynchronous transfer mode adaptation layer 2 cell streams into a single asynchronous transfer mode virtual connection to be processed by an asynchronous transfer mode switch, wherein a control unit timer used in said multiplexer has a larger value than a control unit timer used for said asynchronous transfer mode adaptation layer 2 cell streams.

7. (Currently Amended) A method, comprising:

receiving all asynchronous transfer mode adaptation layer 2 cell streams of respective asynchronous transfer mode virtual connections sent parallel to each other from physically distributed asynchronous transfer mode adaptation layer 2 based termination points of a plurality of radio sectors of a base station, wherein said base station is a base station out of a plurality of base stations configured to communicate with a radio network controller by an asynchronous transfer mode based data connection, and wherein each asynchronous transfer mode adaptation layer 2 cell stream contains different call IDs mapped into ~~it~~ the asynchronous transfer mode adaptation layer 2 cell stream, in which said different call IDs are contained, under the control of a control unit timer; and

multiplexing said received asynchronous transfer mode adaptation layer 2 cell streams into a single asynchronous transfer mode virtual connection to be processed by an asynchronous transfer mode switch, wherein a control unit timer used in said multiplexing

has a larger value than a control unit timer used for said asynchronous transfer mode adaptation layer 2 cell streams.

8-9. (Cancelled)

10. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 3, wherein the multiplexer has a switchable bypass line.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 6, wherein the multiplexer has a switchable bypass line.

13. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 6, wherein the multiplexer is a plug-in type unit.

14-15. (Cancelled)

16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7, wherein the multiplexing is performed in a multiplexer.

17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, wherein the multiplexer has a switchable bypass line.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, wherein the multiplexer is a plug-in type unit.

19-21. (Cancelled)

22. (Currently Amended) An apparatus, comprising:

means for receiving all asynchronous transfer mode adaptation layer 2 cell streams of respective asynchronous transfer mode virtual connections sent parallel to each other from physically distributed asynchronous transfer mode adaptation layer 2 based termination points of a plurality of radio sectors of a base station, wherein said base station is a base station out of a plurality of base stations configured to communicate with a radio network controller by an asynchronous transfer mode based data connection, and wherein each asynchronous transfer mode adaptation layer 2 cell stream contains different call IDs mapped into ~~it~~ the asynchronous transfer mode adaptation layer 2 cell stream, in which said different call IDs are contained, under the control of a control unit timer, and

means for multiplexing said received asynchronous transfer mode adaptation layer 2 cell streams into a single asynchronous transfer mode virtual connection to be processed by an asynchronous transfer mode switch, wherein a control unit timer used in said multiplexer

has a larger value than a control unit timer used for said asynchronous transfer mode adaptation layer 2 cell streams.

23. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 6, wherein channels respectively corresponding to said termination points have different bandwidths.

24. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 23, wherein the multiplexer has a switchable bypass line.

25. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the multiplexer is a plug-in type unit.